

Integration Dialogue 2: Building back better towards inclusive, sustainable, and just economies for recovery: Re-designing the contract between people and planet.

New York, June 3, 2021

Thank you, Mr. Moderator,

1. We appreciate the convening of these virtual conversations as part of the preparatory process for the ECOSOC Integration Segment, during which we will discuss policy and program options to continue facing and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. To implement the decade of action, there is a clear need for a new social contract that simultaneously addresses the COVID-19 pandemic and those to come. It requires rekindling Hope and Confidence in the future. One way to achieve this is for the international community to commit to building a net zero emissions society by 2050. This would give us an international development goal congruent with the Sustainable Development Goals that would allow us to avoid the worst consequences of Climate Change, which sadly would be worse than COVID-19.

3. It is important to remember that cooperation to address COVID-19 should not replace the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular, those aimed at the most pressing goal: poverty eradication.

4. In addition to Official Development Assistance and climate finance, developing countries need urgent and disburseable emergency financing.

5. We urge the international community to significantly increase investment in public health to avoid such health emergencies in the future.

6. At the international level, two concrete immediate actions can be taken. The first one is to follow Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for countries that impose unilateral coercive measures to immediately cease and desist from their illegal actions that affect more than 30 countries with more than 2 billion people, and that in times of pandemic, hinder universal access to vaccines and treatments developed to confront COVID-19 on equitable and affordable terms. These illegal sanctions severely affect national economies, becoming a crime against humanity.

7. The second measure is debt cancellation for developing countries, at least in the period 2020 - 2024. It is better for everyone that the debt be forgiven during these four years as part of the solution, avoiding a prolonged chain of sovereign debt defaults as part of the problem.

8. To recover from this pandemic, it is essential to transform the current unjust economic order, a product of the Global Capitalist Model, into one that allows us to respond to the ever-increasing and more frequent crises, by strengthening multilateralism, solidarity and cooperation, providing the financial resources to ensure access and equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to all the peoples of the world, as well as creating capacities to guarantee its production and distribution in developing countries, thus effectively responding to the pandemic and recovering to create a better world, without poverty and inequality, with social justice and in harmony with Mother Earth.

Thank you very much.

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